

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the first paragraph on page 1, lines 5-7 with the following paragraph:

This is a continuation application of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/153,608 filed on May 24, 2002, entitled "SAMPLE PROCESSING SYSTEM" (incorporated herein by reference in its entirety), which in turn is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/434,741 filed on November 5, 1999 entitled "SAMPLE PROCESSING SYSTEM", and U.S. Patent Application No. 09/435,285 filed November 5, 1999 entitled "SAMPLE PROCESSING SYSTEM".